

CAREER: Resilient Low-Cost Robot Teams for Autonomous Aquatic Exploration



DARTMOUTH

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Envisioned scenario

Main research goal: develop **algorithms** and **systems** to enable **low-cost** aquatic team of robots to operate in the **wild**

ASV and AUV exploring

The main research themes with corresponding unique real-world challenges that are studied in this CAREER are:

- R1 **Resilient multi-robot 3D underwater exploration** when **global localization is missing or highly noisy**
- R2 **Resilient communication** under **extremely limited communication** infrastructure
- R3 **Graceful recovery** to avoid loss of any robot or the whole system in environments **with extreme localization and communication limitations** with **low-cost** robots, that have limited computational, perception, and motion capabilities.

Expensive aquatic robots and deployments hinder their broader use

Scientific impacts are in several areas of **robot autonomy** for inexpensive robots, through computational methods and systems, advancing robots robustness in:

1. Localization
2. 3D exploration
3. Coordination

that can generalize for any system in **constrained real-world environments**.

Robots under ice

Robots in caves

Some of the **current contributions** include:

Localization underwater through laser between air-water [1]

Multi-sensor fusion for underwater navigation [2]

Non-stationary spatial field multi-robot active learning [3]

Broader societal impacts include:

1. **Democratize** aquatic robots
2. Apply and broaden the use of the robotics technology for **high-impact applications**, with specific activities, such as lake monitoring for climate change

Inexpensive robot built in the lab

Algal bloom

Robots have been used to achieve **education objective** in:

- K-12 outreach,
- lake associations,
- education beyond computer science

References

- [1] Carver, C. J., Shao, Q., Lensgraf, S., Sniffen, A., Perroni-Scharf, M., Gallant, H., Quattrini Li, A. & Zhou, X. (2022, June). Sunflower: locating underwater robots from the air. In Proceedings of the 20th Annual International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications and Services (MobiSys).
- [2] Yang, P., Liu, H., Roznere, M., & Quattrini Li, A. (2023). Monocular Camera and Single-Beam Sonar-Based Underwater Collision-Free Navigation with Domain Randomization. In International Symposium of Robotics Research (ISRR).
- [3] Masaba, K. & Quattrini Li, A. (2023). Double blind. (under review).